

May 13, 2003

The Honorable Byron Sher, Chair  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: Support for SB 20 (Sher)**

Dear Senator Sher:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Santa Barbara to express our support for Senate Bill 20, which would require manufacturers of hazardous electronics to take responsibility for the safe handling and recycling of their products at their end-of-life.

Cathode ray tubes (CRTs) in computer monitors and TVs contain hazardous levels of lead and other toxic materials. Appropriately, the state banned their disposal in landfills due to the human and environmental health hazards. Currently, these devices are being sold in California without restrictions and without a recycling infrastructure in place. Local governments have inadvertently become the responsible parties and are being forced to underwrite the increasingly costly task of cleaning up the electronics industry's toxic mess on the backs of the taxpayers.

SB 20 addresses this crisis with a flexible 'producer responsibility' approach by requiring manufacturers of hazardous electronic devices to establish and implement a collection, processing, recovery, reuse, and recycling system for their obsolete and hazardous products. Additionally, the measure calls on manufacturers to phase down the use of hazardous materials in these devices. SB 20 would also restrict the export of hazardous electronic waste to developing countries.

It is essential that our state leaders stand up for the health of its citizens and the health of its environment. Industry must be held accountable for their products. The City of Santa Barbara strongly supports SB 20 and thank you for your leadership on this critical issue facing California.

Sincerely,

Marty Blum  
Mayor

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cc: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Californians Against Waste  
Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson  
Senator Tom McClintock  
League of California Cities, Yvonne Hunter  
Jim Armstrong, City Administrator  
Don Olson, City Special Projects Manager  
Stephen MacIntosh, Public Works, Solid Waste Specialist